

## Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 JUSE-00 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4659

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL ROTTERDAM

AMCONSUL FRANKUURT

DEA WASHDC

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, LU

SUBJECT: LUXEMBOURG AIRPORT NARCOTICS TRAFFIC

REF: A) STATE 199804 (NOTAL) B) LUXEMBOURG 0726

1. US ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS, MR. ROLAND RAYMONDS, AND MR. ANDREW AGATHANGALOU, EMBASSY PARIS CUSTOMS ATTACHE, VISITED LUXEMBOURG ON SEPTEMBER 18. ACCOMPANIED BY CHARGE THEY MET WITH MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ACTING PRIME MINISTER RAYMOND VOUEL, MINISTER OF JUSTICE ROBERT KRIEPS AND MINISTER OF HEALTH AND PUBLIC FORCES EMILE KRIEPS. IN THE ABSENCE OF CHIEF OF CUSTOMS MARCEL MARSON, THEY MET WITH HIS DEPUTY, MR. ARTHUR BECK. THEY ALSO HAD A WORKING LUNCHEON WITH MR. BECK, CAPTAIN FERNAND DIEDERICH OF THE GENDERMERIE, AND MR. CHARLES ELSER, WHO IS IN CHARGE OF DRUG AFFAIRS AT THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE.

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2. COMMISSIONER RAYMOND PROVIDED AND EXTREMELY EFFECTIVE

BRIEFING ON THE DRUG PROBLEM IN THE US, US CUSTOMS' EFFORTS TO INTERDICT DRUG TRAFFIC AND THE POSSIBILITY OF IMPROVED COOPERATION WITH FOREIGN CUSTOMS SERVICES. IN RESPONSE, EACH OF THE MINISTERS INDICATED GOL AWARENESS OF THE US AND WORLDWIDE NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING PROBLEM AND EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN EFFORTS TO SUPPRESS ILLEGAL DRUG TRAFFIC. MINISTER VOUEL SAID HE WILL GIVE THE GOL CUSTOMS SERVICE, WHICH IS UNDER HIS ADMINISTRATION, CARTE BLANCHE TO COOPERATE WITH US CUSTOMS. THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE SAID THAT, WHATEVER HIS VIEWS ON DRUGS WHEN HE TOOK OFFICE A YEAR AGO, HIS EXPERIENCES SINCE THEN HAVE CONVINCED HIM OF THE POTENTIAL SERIOUSNESS OF A DRUG PROBLEM IN LUXEMBOURG. HE ADDED THAT HE IS NOW PREPARED TO USE DRACONIAN MEASURES TO COMBAT DRUG ABUSE INTERNALLY AND ILLEGAL DRUG TRANSIT VIA THE LUXEMBOURG AIRPORT.

3. AS A FIRST STEP, THE CUSTOMS SERVICE ACCEPTED US OFFER OF AN IN-COUNTRY TRAINING PROGRAM, TO BE SCHEDULED AFTER THE FIRST OF THE YEAR. PROPOSED TIMING, LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION AND OTHER DETAILS WILL BE WORKED OUT BETWEEN THE HEAD OF CUSTOMS AND THE CHARGE IN COOPERATION WITH MR. AGATHANGALOU IN PARIS. MR. BECK AND THE OTHER LUXEMBOURGERS ALSO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THE POSSIBILITY OF A VISIT OF A DETECTOR DOG TEAM AND HANDLERS, FOLLOWING THE CUSTOMS TRAINING COURSE.

4. COMMENT: MINISTER ROBERT KRIEPS' WILLINGNESS TO CRACK DOWN ON DRUG ABUSES WAS CLEARLY THE RESULT OF LONG AND DEEP PERSONAL REFLECTION ON THE DILEMMA POSED BY HIS LOATHING FOR PRISON SENTENCES AND HIS DESIRE TO CONTRAL A DANGEROUS SOCIAL EVIL. HE IS APPARENTLY WELL AWARE OF HIS REPUTATION FOR SOFTNESS AND SOMEWHAT SENSITIVE ABOUT IT. ON AUGUST 23 THE ASSOCIATION OF CUSTOMS OFFICERS IN AN OPEN LETTER OFFERED HIM THEIR "FULL COOPERATION" AGAINST CRIME -- AS IF THEIR READINESS TO HELP NEEDED TO BE UNDERSCORED. PHILLIPS

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